

The Sun

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The Origin of "Ex Proprio Vigore."

The Democrats opposed to expansion are going to build their case upon the proposition that the United States Constitution extends itself, by its own force and without legislative enactment, to all territory acquired by conquest, by purchase, or by treaty of annexation.

This doctrine has logical consequences that reach far, and it is because its logical consequences reach far, and tend to embarrass Congress and the Executive and the Judiciary in the development and regulation of the new national policy, that the opponents of progress affirm it now.

From this time on, every question of legislation regarding our new possessions will be discussed on one side on lines shaped in accordance with this fundamental theory, namely, that the Constitution of the United States applies immediately and inevitably, *ex proprio vigore*, to every square yard of territory which comes by any process under the flag and jurisdiction of the United States. The Democrats of the Senate and the House will make it serve as the compass of every proposed measure for the government of our new possessions. It will be in full sight through every important debate in the Senate or in the House. Mr. BRYAN has proclaimed it. It is likely to figure in the next Democratic platform, and it is sure to appear conspicuously this year upon the Democratic stump.

What is the origin of this great theory or doctrine so suddenly invented, or rather revived, by the opposition party for use in the political emergencies of the year 1900?

Senator FORAKER of Ohio disclosed the source of it on Monday when, in the course of a discussion starting with the matter of telephone charges in the District of Columbia, he quoted incidentally from THOMAS H. BENTON'S "Thirty Years in the United States Senate."

Let the anti-expansion Democrats enjoy a full view of the fountain head of their much-prized doctrine of *ex proprio vigore*. The headlines and part of the text of Mr. BENTON'S one hundred and twenty-fifth chapter become very interesting now:

"MR. CALHOUN'S NEW DOGMA ON TERRITORIAL SLAVERY—SELF-EXTENSION OF THE SLAVERY PART OF THE CONSTITUTION TO THE TERRITORIES.

The resolution of 1847 went no further than to deny the power of Congress to prohibit slavery in a Territory, and that was enough while Congress alone was the power to be guarded against, but it became insufficient, and even a stumbling block, when New Mexico and California were acquired, and where no Congress prohibition was necessary because their soil was already free. Here the dogma of 1847 became an impediment to the territorial extension of slavery, for in denying power to Congress, it implied a power in the Territories to extend slavery, which it found there, and placing the institution there under its own wing and maintaining it beyond the power of eradication either by Congress or the people of the Territory.

Before the dogma was proclaimed there were no slaves in the Territories, and no Congress prohibition of slavery, failing in these attempts, the difficulty was solved by boldly assuming that the Constitution itself—that is to say, the slavery part of it. In this exigency Mr. Calhoun came out with his dogma, and the slavery-transmission function of the Constitution in the face of, and the instantaneous transportation of itself, in its slavery attributes, into all acquired Territories.

History cannot follow higher than as a variety of a discredited imagination that implied self-acting and self-extension of the Constitution. The Constitution does nothing of itself—not even in the States, for which it was made. Every part of it requires law to put it into operation. No part of it can reach a Territory unless imparted to it by act of Congress.

Thus it appears that the theory of Constitutional self-extension now so suddenly and so solemnly assumed by the anti-expansionists as a weapon with which to resist the march of national progress, was not invented or formulated by them.

It is simply the old dogma of the slaveholding interests, the temporary device of the statesmen who endeavored to extend slavery over all the new territory of the United States; and it is revived now in the name of American freedom and Constitutional liberty!

What does Mr. BRYAN think ABRAHAM LINCOLN would have had to say about the Calhoun doctrine that the Constitution goes of itself unbidden into all new territory of the United States?

Suez and Nicaragua.

The plea is put forward by the apologists for the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty that, although the United States Government was not a party to the Constantinople convention of 1888, we are nevertheless authorized to use the Suez Canal in time of war, and we ought, therefore, to frame the regulations of the Nicaragua waterway in accordance with the sense of duty to other nations expressed in the convention just mentioned which framed rules for the Suez Canal.

The answer to this assertion is that, so far as Great Britain is concerned upon the one hand, and the United States are concerned upon the other, there is absolutely no parallelism between the Suez Canal and the projected Nicaragua waterway. It is notorious that, in spite of the ostensibly equitable rules embodied in the Constantinople convention, Great Britain would, in the event of war with the United States, be absolute mistress of the Suez Canal, and we could not possibly use that waterway to attack India or Australia. If, on the other hand, the Suez Canal rules were made applicable to the artificial Nicaragua channel, we could not control the latter and Great Britain could use it to attack our Pacific coast.

But why, it may be asked, could not we use the Suez Canal in the event of a contest with Great Britain? For two reasons: First, because our warships could not, with any show of prudence, undertake to pass the British naval stations at Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Alexandria; secondly, because, even if our warships should manage to reach Port Said, and should

thereupon be suffered to traverse the Suez Canal, they would have embarked on a suicidal voyage, for they would be bottled up in the Red Sea, the narrow southern neck of which is guarded by British fortifications as well as a British fleet.

Not only have we no such power of controlling the means of access and of exit in the case of the Nicaragua Canal, but England is far more favorably situated than we are ourselves with regard to the Caribbean entrance of the projected waterway, having fortified harbors at St. Lucia and Jamaica, and having a strategic cordon of vessels in British Honduras on the main-land of the American isthmus.

To allege, therefore, that our sense of duty to other nations should make us apply to the Nicaragua Canal the rules nominally operative at Suez is to assume that the American people are grossly ignorant with regard to the tremendous difference between the waterways in respect of geographical and strategic conditions.

Puerto Rico.

The conflict that was fought out in 1898 between Spain and the United States in the West Indies was irrepressible. Cuba and Puerto Rico were as certain to be transferred in some way to the sovereignty or protection of the United States as the day is to dawn over the Atlantic.

In view of the fact that Puerto Rico was bound to become American and that she is American, the proposition to keep her in some degree a foreigner, excluded from the circle of United States territory, is repugnant to this country's dignity and belief.

This nation must necessarily, from its conception of itself as the dominating nation of the continent, object to maintaining a commercial barrier against an island that politically, as well as geographically, is a part of it. No local interest can prevent the rearrangement of our relations with Puerto Rico that justice and common sense together prescribe. Americanism is too strong to sanction a scheme so essentially un-American as not to bestow upon the conquered Puerto Rico all the American rights and privileges that she can advantageously receive.

Puerto Rico is as ready for free trade with the United States as she is for sunlight.

The Appalling Price of a Boycott.

A few years since, owing to the downfall of various newspapers and associations, practically all the newspapers in this country passed into the hands of a single organization, called the Associated Press. This Press refused to print and determined to collect the news for itself, setting forth plainly as its reason for doing so that it could not afford to belong to an organization which was subject to a management of the character of that of the Associated Press.

The quality and scope of the news which THE SUN gathered, and this we say with reluctance, because we habitually eschew all appearance of self-commendation or proclamation of our own efficiency, created a natural desire on the part of nearly all the leading and resourceful newspapers in the country to share in its publication. This they did, by agreement with THE SUN, and it was a source of revenue to THE SUN. The management of the Associated Press immediately became an open and unadmitted conspiracy to destroy THE SUN. Our correspondents were blacklisted and proscribed in every city in the United States; all newspapers were ordered to withhold all access to the news from THE SUN'S agents, while those papers that were sharing in the news gathered by THE SUN and paying for it were compelled to discontinue its use under penalties which seemed to them too severe to incur. Thus THE SUN was effectively boycotted by the Associated Press for the private and personal ends of the managers of that concern, and it is thoroughly understood, without the complexity, sympathy or approval of a single respectable newspaper in any part of the country, that THE SUN'S some hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it was better far that THE SUN should be extinguished and forever destroyed than that it should yield to such base and malignant influences as were arrayed against it.

A Chicago newspaper, the *Inter-Ocean*, was a subscriber to THE SUN'S news service and it is practically destructive of the Associated Press. It obliterates its franchises, declares it to be unlawful and in "restraint of trade" and decides that it is compelled by the law to sell its news to any newspaper wishing to publish it.

This is a deplorable result. We have not at any time sought the overthrow or injury of the Associated Press. We refused to join it, because of the evil and dangerous character of its management, and the results of that management have only too fully justified our course. In so far as we have ourselves sought the aid of the law, it was merely to the end that we might be permitted to conduct our own business in peace and liberty and to supply our news to whomsoever it might please to pay for it. Of that right we were deprived, not in the interests of the Associated Press, but in the private and personal interests of the men in control of the Associated Press. We were never embroiled in any campaign of hostility to the welfare of the Associated Press. We believed in the underlying principle of its organization and we firmly believe in and approve of it to-day. We have never failed to proclaim this belief, and we have imparted practical, personal and official knowledge of it to the managers of the Associated Press. It was all to no purpose. The managers had their private ends to satisfy, their personal animosities to gratify, and the President of the Associated Press himself had his own private news business to promote and had no scruples about using the institution of which he was a trustee to crush out his rival. This last he has set forth with remarkable frankness and detail over his own signature.

And what is the outcome? The Associated Press is wrecked and shattered from top to bottom. Its franchises are made worse than worthless and the admirable purpose of its original conception is defeated widely.

Whoever wishes can have and print its costly and, heretofore, exclusive news service. THE SUN was justified in condemning the management of the Associated Press, but the Supreme Court of Illinois has made it pay a price for its boycott of THE SUN which is nothing short of appalling!

The Mule Vindicated.

An incurable spirit of levity and prejudice has long prevailed in literature and in the popular idea of the mule. Firmness of disposition, a genius for calculation and a sort of malicious devilry are the qualities commonly ascribed to that remarkably sagacious and hard-working animal. A pattern of frugality and the humorist, and its virtues go unrecognized and unwarded. People even say of a robust person: "He has a constitution like a horse." "He is as strong as a horse," and forget that equipped with the mule the horse is working, a flower, a neutralist and a victim of hallucinations. The mule is the representative of frillless common sense, without illusions, made stubborn by a long course of beating, poor fare, race prejudice and scurrilous jests. The poets love to sing of lightning chargers and of steeds swift as the storm, but no canticle of mules is written. No mule minstrel corrects the injustice of the world. Even Mr. EDWIN MARKHAM has not hymned the hopeless drudgery of this much-enduring hybrid. The mule gets all the kicks, and returns a few.

But the misfortune of pedigree cannot keep down merit in a democratic age. The mule has a great head, firm feet, invincible power of labor and sound geographical instincts. The mule can balance on the edge of nothing and climb precipices in a way to stagger the Alpine climber. In peace and in war the mule is invaluable. How could the great war of America or the Spanish-American War have been carried on without the mule? What hope would the English have in South Africa if they had not the cooperation of the disciplined and intelligent subordinate or insubordinate? The peace societies have wasted time for years. The way to stop war is to destroy the mule. But what would peace be without the mule, the hardest worker in the world?

The statistics of the Agricultural Department are balm for the wounded pride of the mule. The average price of mules in 1899 was \$53.54 a head. The average price of horses in 1899 was \$9 less a head. Thus is the aristocrat beaten by the plebeian, and thus the whirlwind of time brings in its revenges.

A Law to Protect Moral Purity.

The religious agitation has led to the framing of a bill, which was introduced into the Legislature at Albany on Monday, constituting marital infidelity a misdemeanor, punishable as such. Bishop DOANE of the Episcopal Church is understood to be the sponsor of the measure, and at any rate, he announced himself as strongly in favor of it, saying that it has been prepared in response to "a movement to put the sinners against purity of both sexes on the same ground by affixing a penalty to the crime of adultery."

That there should be such equality in the treatment of the offense is sound theoretically and in morals. In this Republic generally the law recognizes it, so far as concerns the integrity of the marriage relation, the infidelity of either the husband or the wife constituting the prime ground for divorce. In England, however, the law makes a radical distinction between them, based on purely physiological grounds. It gives the husband divorce in case of simple adultery by the wife, but not to the wife in the case of the husband's infidelity. To get a full divorce she must prove not only adultery in the husband, but also that it was accompanied by such cruelty as would have entitled her to a divorce, *a mensa et thoro*, or by desertion for two years or more. Such a distinction, of course, is brutal and immoral, yet it is made in England, with its established Anglican Church. In this country, where there is no State Church, a higher moral standard is preserved by the law.

New York is now one of the few States of the Union which provide no punishment for adultery, except so far as making it the sole cause for a full divorce. Bishop DOANE contends that this puts a premium on marital infidelity in this State; but might not the law advocated by him tend to prevent the punishment of adultery by divorce and the obtaining of that remedy by the aggrieved party to a marriage? Often times witnesses competent to prove the adultery might be loath to give the evidence if its effect would be to bring upon the guilty party subsequent prosecution and conviction of a misdemeanor.

There might be cases, too, where juries would on such evidence be slow in finding guilt of adultery in divorce cases when their verdict carried with it a sentence of some man or woman to the penitentiary. It is questionable, therefore, if the law urged by Bishop DOANE would not interfere seriously with the free giving of testimony in divorce cases, and to that extent, conflict with sound morals.

It is not less unquestionable, however, that morally and rightfully the offense of adultery stands on a level with the crime of both the man and the woman, and that the obligation of marital purity rests equally on both.

Russia on the Afghan Frontier.

The alarm that is being raised in England over the increase of the number of Russian troops on the Afghan frontier is to a great extent artificial. An examination of the circumstances under which the increase has been made shows that it is of a precautionary rather than an aggressive measure. The Russian Government some time ago decided that the development of their possessions in the Trans-Caspian and in Central Asia demanded a shorter and more convenient outlet to the eastern seas than that afforded by the Black Sea route, on which ships flying the Russian flag have to pass at many points under the guns of Turkish and British batteries. That outlet, it was long ago decided, lay on the shores of the Persian Gulf or on the Persian coast of the Indian Ocean, and for years past the Court of St. Petersburg has been the scene of an incessant struggle between the Russian and British legations for a controlling influence in the affairs of the country.

At one time it looked as if the British influence had gained the upper hand. A Persian bank with British capital was founded, and a concession for a tobacco monopoly was granted to a Major TALBOT, one of the Cecil family, who disposed of it to a syndicate which sent its agents to all the principal cities of Persia and took possession of the

whole tobacco industry of the country, from the planting of the seed to the export of the manufactured article. The religious authorities at once declared abstention from tobacco to be a religious and patriotic duty, and a boycott was established. This was soon followed by riotous demonstrations in different places against the premises and warehouses belonging to the Tobacco Régie, as the monopoly was styled, and after there had been considerable destruction of property the officials of the Régie fled the country and the boycott on smoking was raised. The British Government, however, succeeded in extracting a heavy indemnity from the much-perplexed Shah, which was at once paid by the Russian Bank at Tehran to prevent the British increasing their hold on the country.

Slowly, but surely, Russia has gone on extending her influence and trade in Persia, always to the detriment of British commerce with that country, particularly in the northern part. At the same time the development of railways throughout Central Asia and the growth of commerce have called for a less obstructed channel than that afforded by the present route, on which goods going out or coming in are subject to several transshipments on land and water, adding materially to the cost and time of transport. Other reasons, of a political and military nature, presented themselves, and the survey of a railway starting from Tula on the Russo-Persian Caucasus frontier to Tabriz, Hamadan, and to Bander Abbas on the Persian Gulf through Shiraz, with a branch to Teheran, has been ordered. This railway with its projected extensions and branches will be entirely under Russian control, and to all intents and purposes a Russian railway.

Whether this has been decided on with or without a preliminary understanding with England is uncertain, and the despatch of troops to the Afghan frontier, not only to Kushk, but to other points much further east overhanging as it were, the northwest frontier of India, makes it look as if it had not. The movement of these troops, however, is not necessarily aggressive in intent, but, as has been said before, is precautionary, and designed to meet any action England might take to frustrate Russia's arrangements with Persia. An invasion or attempted invasion of India by Russia at this moment would not be in the interest of Russian policy in the East, with so much unassimilated and unorganized territory and population still on her hands.

On the other hand, the British Indian Government has lately absolutely promoted a trade with that part of Persia in proximity to Baluchistan, which is being carried on over a road passing through Keilat. The caravans go up as far north as Moshed, and it is said in recent British official reports that quite a brisk trade has already developed in Persian horses, cattle, and other things. The object of this is said to be to meet the Russian competition and create a British interest where until quite recently none existed; and the object of the Russian military preparations is to guard against the commercial aggression being made the forerunner for less peaceful measures on the part of the British Indian Government. As Soistan, which England obtained from Persia and Afghanistan by the same method that she did Griguland West with Kimberley in South Africa, is an isolated piece of British territory, lying between Afghanistan and Persia, British troops from India can only reach it by passing through the southwestern corner of Afghanistan. The despatch of any considerable British force to that point by that route would be resented by Russia as a threat to her acquired rights in Persia, and it became necessary to counteract that action, Russia might move troops toward the threatened point.

It is, however, conceivable that should the war in South Africa be speedily terminated and a large seasoned force of British soldiers be released for service in Asia, there might be a change in the present aspect of the situation on the Afghan frontier on both sides. The relations between the British and Afghan governments are said to be unchanged, but recently the Amer prohibited the importation of British Indian salt into his territory and the exportation to India of horses and other transport animals, neither of which can be regarded as a friendly proceeding. The increased Russian force has, therefore, more than one reason for its presence on the Afghan frontier without its purpose being necessarily aggressive. The death of the American ambassador in Tehran, and the struggle that will end in the partition of the country between England and Russia with or without war.

The Kearsarge.

The Kearsarge, which went into commission on Tuesday with Capt. FOLGER in command, is the first new American battleship to appear since the Iowa was launched four years ago. Among all theorists on the best schemes of arming warships, there is probably not one who will not say that the Kearsarge is better armed than the Iowa or than the earlier class represented by the Indiana. The Kearsarge's great guns are of 12-inch caliber, the Indiana's, instead of the 12-inch in the Iowa. Instead of the Indiana's four 6-inch and the Iowa's six 4-inch guns, the Kearsarge carries fourteen 5-inch, all of rapid fire, making the amount of metal that she can discharge against an enemy in a given time incomparably greater than that of any of her predecessors.

The only considerable dispute reasonably possible as to her merits, when compared with other vessels of the Navy, is upon the 8-inch turrets, which in the Kearsarge, are superposed upon the 13-inch turrets. Practically this gives the same broadside fire as is possessed by the Iowa, which carries four 8-inch turrets placed independently. Whether they are good or bad, can be determined by trial only. If they turn out good, they will probably be seen on every new battleship that carries turrets at all.

The country is waiting eagerly to hear from the Kearsarge's turrets.

A genuine opponent exists in Kansas City, Mo. The *Times* of that town says that "the brand placed on Senator FETTERMAN'S brow has become a halo" and that "there are and always will be those who will crown him." Crown him with thistles for the pettiness of his.

A good bill to pass in Congress: The bill to "increase the efficiency of the military establishment of the United States," introduced by Senator HAYES, with the approval of the Secretary of War.

Here is the Hon. BRUCE ANSON bestirring the base ball field again in a Coliseum. When the world was younger, Bruce was still called "old," and there seems to be no doubt that he is no older and no younger, he will be regent in the diamond when the Dinkas and the Bushmen are playing for the native professional championship of Africa.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It is evident from the news that has been coming in since yesterday that Gen. Cronje's retreat from his positions between the Modder and Kimberley, after they had become untenable, was executed in a masterly manner. So much so that the Boer flying column, in perfect condition as described, retired in perfect order, and, when too closely pressed by the pursuing British force, turned and inflicted on them losses that as yet can only be estimated by the number of officers of all ranks who are reported to have been killed and wounded. Among the latter there are two Generals, one being the newly appointed commander of the Highland Brigade, Sir Hector Macdonald. By this time Gen. Cronje should be receiving such reinforcements as can be sent him by rail from Pretoria to cover his right flank and enable him to make head against the British force presently acting under the orders of Gen. Kitchener until the Free States coming from Natal, part probably by rail by way of Harismitth to Bethlehem, where they would detain and continue their march by road to Winburg, where they would again take rail direct to the north, and so on. It will very likely be found that some of the commands that were in Natal are already with Gen. Cronje, while he should by now have been joined by some of those coming north from the direction of Stormberg. Nothing has been heard of Gen. Prinsloo with the commands from Colensoberg that entered the British colony near Koffyfontein, south of the Riet River, but he is no doubt now acting in cooperation with Gen. Cronje, guarding his left flank and ready to hold out a hand if necessary to any force coming in his direction from the south. Every day, even a few miles, Gen. Cronje will very likely be able to keep the British back until their concentration is effected and their plans to meet the new conditions of the campaign are formed. A Berlin report is being quoted to the effect that Gen. Cronje is really surrounded and has been given the choice of surrendering or of being killed, but Berlin reports lately have proved unreliable, and so important a piece of news is not likely to have been withheld from the British public, who will not feel encouraged by the casualty reports already given out. The Canadian contingent has passed under the guns of the Modder, and is now at the latter including two officers. The total loss with prisoners and missing was eighty-nine.

The absence of news later than Sunday seems to indicate that the Boer resistance continues, as Lord Roberts' headquarters were still at Paardeburg on Tuesday, which day the casualty list was dated. The Boer official reports describing the fighting in which they claim to have captured forty British prisoners, horses and other booty, come down to Monday, a day later than those from Lord Roberts, which shows that up to then the Boer's communication with Bloemfontein, which is their headquarters, was still open. There is one difficulty with which the British have to contend which is not being referred to in the official despatches, but is making itself severely felt. It is the increasing disease among their horses and transport animals, a sickness called strangles having broken out as speedily as possible, the whole of their force was sent to the rear and segregated to prevent its spreading among the rest of the animals with the army.

In Natal Gen. Buller pushed Gen. Warren's division across the Tugela yesterday driving back the Boer force and silencing their guns. The Boer force, which was in the neighborhood of the Tugela, is reported to be proceeding cautiously, and is mounting guns on Hlangwani Mountain with which to bombard the Boer positions at Groblers Kloof and up the railway line as far as Netherpoort station. The Boers are now probably only making their positions untenable, and are waiting for a chance to give time to the convoys to get safely off, and we may hear at any moment of their having slipped away from in front of Gen. Buller and left the road open to him. The decision which is said to have been made by the Transvaal and Free State Governments to withdraw as speedily as possible the whole of their forces within their own boundaries, is reported to be in consequence of an understanding between them and the Cape Government, by which, as soon as British territory was evacuated by the republican forces, an agitation was to be made in the Colony in favor of an alliance with the republics on the independence of the two republics.

Fighting is reported to have taken place between the Boers and Col. Plumer's Rhodesian contingent at Crocodile Pools near Gaberones, in which the British were repulsed with some loss. This affair took place before Feb. 12, and is probably the same fight which has been reported from Pretoria some time back.

This Bull Not Tim Healy's.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I was surprised to read in an editorial in an afternoon newspaper of Jan. 30 the following: "That the statement under discussion is almost as mysterious as the famous speech by Tim Healy in the Irish Parliament." As long as the voice of Irish infidelity is dumb the roar of English compassion is deaf to it. Knowing that neither Mr. Healy nor his Irish colleagues in the Irish Parliament is admitted to the use of decent language, I am obliged for your courtesy, but if I noticed less about myself I should embark on an exuberant, but unproductive, industry and strive for my pains I never before saw this particular herd of beasts, and the English are fairly angry without the American alliance. Yours truly, T. M. HEALY.

Do not English editorial writers in the United States, like their kind in London, manufacture "bull" and attribute them to Irishmen? J. M. S. New York, Feb. 19.

Mrs. Piper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I noticed certain experiments made in Boston with Mrs. Piper, made by Prof. Henry of the Harvard University and others, a certain talking spirit is called "George Peckham," who was one of the staff of THE SUN. Was it fact that you had such a gentleman? RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 16. J. J. LAFRANCE.

We believe that Mrs. Piper has added to her list of spirit assistants a George Peckham. Mr. George Peckham, before his death, was a writer for THE SUN.

The Vicissitudes of Senator George's Hat.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Senator George wears a soft felt hat. He does not leave it in the cloakroom, but, carrying it in the Senate, throws it down in a given time incomparably greater than that of any of her predecessors.

The experience of George's hat during the Senate sessions would make a book, if it could be related at length. Stewart, who sits behind George, confesses, as usual, that he has a hat a dozen feet. It emerges from the cloakroom in a sadly demoralized shape, but George reaches out, gathers in his head-covering and resumes his reading. Presently the hat is encountered by the toe of another statesman and goes sailing away over the floor. Then George reaches out for it again.

Some of these days George will put a brick in his hat and then when a Senator comes along and kicks it there will be trouble.

Why the Maryland Democrats Went Hunt For Fox To-day.

From the Baltimore Sun.

ANNEAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 18.—Mr. Redmond C. Stedman arranged for a legislative fox hunt on the 22d of February, to take place in Green Spring Valley, Baltimore county. The original design was to have a democratic hunt, with President Hubner of the Senate well to the front. But the wise President unwittingly prohibited Mr. Stedman from taking any Democratic Senator on his hunt. "We have no foxes," Democratic vice in the Senate," President Hubner said, "a bare constitutional majority, and if Mr. Stedman breaks the neck of one of them we will be helpless to pass even a nonpartisan school bill. I cannot permit such a risk."

The plan has therefore been changed, and the Senatorial leaders of the hunt will be Republicans.

ART NOTES.

There is a full art matters at present, following the unusual activity of the latter part of January and the first week of this month. The Society of American Artists' exhibition, the next important event of the year, will open on Wednesday, March 24, works in painting and sculpture for the show being received at the Fine Arts building in West Fifty-seventh street, on Thursday and Friday, March 8 and 9. The hanging committee consists of William A. Coffin, A. N. A., Louis Paul Dessar, A. N. A., and Irving R. Wiley, N. A. The jury of administration consists, as usual, of thirty members of the society.

One-man exhibitions, several auction sales and the small displays in dealers' galleries will fill in the time until the society exhibition opens, and one of the most interesting of these, no doubt, will be the exhibition by the "Ten American Painters" at the Durand-Ruel galleries some time in March. The Society of Landscape Painters, another coterie with twelve members, will hold its second annual exhibition at the galleries of the American Art Association, beginning the first week in May.

At Koppel's rooms in East Sixty-third street, until the 15th of March, the interesting collection of etchings of ancient Roman edifices by Piranesi, and Dodd, Mead & Co. announces that they have at their new store, Fifth avenue and Thirty-fifth street, a number of illuminated manuscripts belonging to Mrs. Frederick Gottfried, which will be shown for ten days. Among them is a unique copy of Omar Khayyam. At Wunderlich's gallery, 808 Broadway, is an exhibition of drawings in pastel, pencil and charcoal by J. Carroll Beckwith, N. A., consisting of fifty-seven numbers and similar in character to those shown by an artist at this gallery in December, 1898. They depict with more or less finish, but always with skill and a marked personality of technical means, various figures and groups, the majority being simple studies of feminine types, modern, semi-classical or idealistic. The fine exhibition of landscapes by Mr. Tryon continues at the Montross gallery, and Mr. Vedder's pictures and sculpture are still on view at Avery's.

The American Art Association announces the opening to-day of the exhibition of Prof. Marsh's collection of Oriental porcelains, curios, bronzes, antique furniture, rugs and pictures in oak and water colors. Mr. T. J. Bickelstein has issued a fine illustrated catalogue of pictures now in his rooms at Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street, and Mr. Fischel, the former representative in the United States of Charles Seidemann, the famous Paris art dealer of the Rue de la Rochefoucauld, is exhibiting at his headquarters in the Astor Court building a splendid example of Rubens' "A Holy Miles" coming from the collection of Sir Cecil Miles of Leigh Court, Bristol, England. At the same place Mr. Fischel shows a fine portrait by Titian, the Duke Antonio Grimani. Mr. Carl Gluckmann, who now represents the Seidemann gallery in New York, has brought out a sumptuous portfolio of forty photographs after the most celebrated pictures by Rembrandt exhibited at the recent show of that great master's work at Amsterdam. The latter press is by Dr. C. Hofstede de Goot and the work is dedicated to the memory of the late Mr. J. M. J. Willems. It may be seen at 14 East Forty-fifth street, from 4 to 6 P. M. daily.

The Savings Bank Depositor and the Treat Tax Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Acropolis of the Trusts is now pending in the Legislature at Albany, which imposes a tax on the savings of over \$1,000 on each account in the savings banks in this State. I desire to call attention to a measure most inimical to the interest of the people.

The savings institutions in this State are the "Bancassurance" of the thirty people. This trust bill is a blow on the wage earner. They will resent it to a man.

Mr. Treat in defense of his bill states that the savings banks are used by the wealthy and those who have money to invest. This statement is at variance with facts. The bulk of depositors in the savings banks average a little less than \$500. The few accounts of \$1,000 and over belong mostly to a thrifty class. To tax these is a blow at the industry of the poor.

Let Mr. Treat visit some of the large savings banks in this city at the interest periods, January and July, and see the class of people that come for their money. Some receive a mere pittance, others more, and very few the highest amount paid semi-annually on a single account, namely, \$60. Does Mr. Treat think an annual income of \$120 too good for comfort in an old age?

The proposed result put a decided stop to an incentive to thrift, and the result would be an increase of the burdens already borne by the comparatively poor. In fact, it would be a crime against the civilization of the age to oppress those who are so probably saving themselves and their families.

New York, Feb. 17. TOMO SAKAGUCHI.

The Senator With the Automobile.

From the Independent.

If you happen to be riding your bicycle on Massachusetts avenue about 11 o'clock in the morning, you will hear the whir of wheels, the sound of a warning gong, and then an automobile with a buggy top will whiz by and turn up New Jersey avenue to the Capitol. The man who holds the lever and who looks down at his own feet and back at his own coat is a Senator. He is not a Senator, but a Senator in the making. He is not a Senator, but a Senator in the making. He is not a Senator, but a Senator in the making.

And we are getting more different Every minute. By Jimmy Christmas.

It is no idea when I started in With this country Where we were coming out. Why you hadn't more than Get out of your shell. And now you're a Senator. Spread from the clustered Antilles To the splendors of the Orient. And when you read. The echoes hurled round the world. And every time you flap your wings And decay. Dynasties Take to the tall timber. And the flag. The glittering and glorious Of a despised banner. Which Europe thought was merely A dirge. When I drew it to the breeze, I saw it. The booming of a boundless hail. And the Fourth of July? Well, say, Eagle. It's going to be the Birthday of half a world.

Of which I am Father of the best part. And whether to the balance. You can roost on the ridge pole Of the Greater Republic And scream a lung out. But it won't be so much as a murmur To me. This my minute. And handicapped as I must be Under the circumstances. I'm with you in spirit, Old Baldy. And every time you flap your wings And scream. I burst a button off. That's the kind of an expansionist I am. And if you will put A star-spangled dirge Round the world, I'll tie a knot in it. That will stay tied. And don't you forget it.

On with you, you old hag. On Eagle. And Star-spangled Ringer by high: I'm with you forever, and wish you A perpetual Fourth of July.

WILLIAM F. LAWRENCE.

FREE STATES STAND FAST.

Will Give the Transvaal Their Hearty Support to the Bitter End.

George W. Van Sice, American treasurer of the fund for the widows and orphans of the Boers, has just received the following letter:

"Sir: I have no doubt as to the truth of your question whether there is any truth in the rumors spread in England, pretending that the Free States are abandoning the Transvaal and are giving up fighting or intend to do so. These rumors are altogether false.